The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-30   (canceled)

31. (currently amended)   A method for identifying a mammal having or at risk for developing glomerulonephropathy comprising the steps of:

analyzing integrin subunit expression in a mammalian tissue sample known to contain cells expressing α1 and α2 integrin subunits and in a control tissue sample, wherein said analyzing comprises incubating the sample with an anti-integrin subunit antibody; and

correlating a decreased level of a1 integrin subunit expression or an increased level of α2 integrin subunit expression in the sample tissue as compared with the control tissue with the presence of or risk of developing nephropathy.

32. (currently amended)   A method for identifying a mammal having or at risk for developing glomerulonephropathy comprising the steps of:

analyzing integrin subunit expression in a mammalian tissue sample known to contain cells expressing α1 and α2 integrin subunits and in a control tissue sample, wherein said analyzing comprises incubating the sample with an anti-integrin subunit antibody; and

correlating a decreased level of a1 integrin subunit expression and an increased level of α2 integrin subunit expression in the sample tissue as compared with the control tissue with the presence of or risk of developing nephropathy.

33. (previously added)   The method of claim 31, wherein the mammal is a human.

34. (previously added)   The method of claim 31, wherein the tissue sample is a kidney biopsy, a skin biopsy, or blood.

35-42   (withdrawn)

43. (canceled)

44. (previously added)   The method of claim 31, wherein the control sample is from a mammal having no history of hypertension.

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45. (previously added)   The method of claim 31, wherein an increase of about
25% - 100% in the level of α2 integrin subunit expression in the sample tissue as compared with
the control is correlated with nephropathy.

46. (previously added)   The method of claim 31, wherein a decrease of about
25% - 100% in the level of α1 integrin subunit expression in the sample tissue as compared with
the control is correlated with nephropathy.

47. (currently amended)   A method for identifying a mammal having diabetes who has or is
at risk for developing secondary pathological changes associated with diabetes comprising the
steps of:

analyzing integrin subunit expression in a mammalian tissue sample known to contain
cells expressing α1 and α2 integrin subunits and in a control tissue sample, wherein said
analyzing comprises incubating the sample with an anti-integrin subunit antibody; and

correlating a decreased level of α1 integrin subunit expression and/or an increased level
of α2 integrin subunit expression in the sample tissue as compared with the control tissue with
the presence of or risk of developing secondary pathological changes associated with diabetes.

48. (currently amended)   A kit for the diagnosis of nephropathy comprising:
a set of hybridization probes or antibodies capable of detecting each of α1 and α2
integrin subunit expression in a tissue sample; and
α1 and α2 integrin subunit standards.

49-51 (withdrawn)

52. (canceled)

53-56 (withdrawn)

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